

*Kentucky Environmental Quality Commission*

## **2002 Online Public Opinion Poll on the Environment**



*February 12, 2003*

**Commonwealth of Kentucky**  
**Paul E. Patton, Governor**



### **The Kentucky Environmental Quality Commission (EQC)**

is a seven-member citizen board created under state law with a mission to:

- facilitate public discussion and resolution of environmental issues,
- monitor and report on environmental trends and conditions,
- promote partnerships to improve and protect the environment for future generations, and
- serve as an advisory board to state officials on environmental matters.

### **EQC Commissioners**

Aloma Dew, Chair, Owensboro  
Betsy Bennett, Vice-Chair, Lexington  
Patty Wallace, Louisa  
Gary Revlett, Shelbyville  
Robert Riddle, Midway  
Serena Williams, Louisville  
Jean Dorton, Paintsville

### **EQC Staff**

Leslie Cole, Executive Director  
Erik Siegel, Assistant Director  
Lola Williamson Lyle, Research Analyst  
Frances Kirchhoff, Office Manager

The Environmental Quality Commission does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, or disability and provides, on request, reasonable accommodations including auxiliary aids and service necessary to afford an individual with a disability an equal opportunity to participate in all services, programs, and activities. To request materials in an alternative format contact the Environmental Quality Commission or call 502-564-2150. Hearing- and speech-impaired persons can contact the Commission by using the Kentucky Relay Service, a toll-free telecommunication device for the deaf (TDD). For voice to TDD, call 1-800-648-6057. For TDD to voice, call 1-800-648-6056.

Produced with state funds.

**Kentucky Environmental Quality Commission  
2002 Online Public Opinion Poll on the Environment**

*Kentucky Environmental Quality Commission*

**2002 Online Public Opinion Poll  
on the Environment**

Conducted by:	Kentucky Environmental Quality Commission (EQC)
Time period:	June 14, 2002 through Dec. 30, 2002
Format:	Nonscientific online public opinion poll conducted through the EQC Web site at <a href="http://www.kyeqc.net">www.kyeqc.net</a> . The poll was advertised in the EQC Newsletter and on the EQC, Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Cabinet and Kentucky State Government Homepage Web sites.
Response:	1,600 individual responses, 240 additional comments
Purpose:	The commission invited the public to take this public opinion poll as an opportunity to express their views to state officials.
Disclaimer:	Results of the EQC online poll are nonscientific and reflect the opinions of visitors to the Environmental Quality Commission (EQC) Web site. EQC does not endorse any of the views or comments listed submitted but is providing this information as a service to the public to express their concerns to state officials and others about Kentucky's environment.

# Kentucky Environmental Quality Commission 2002 Online Public Opinion Poll on the Environment

## EQC Online Public Opinion Poll of the Environment

### Summary

#### 96 Percent Taking Poll Concerned About the Environment

Kentuckians are greatly concerned about the environment, according to a nonscientific poll conducted by the Kentucky Environmental Quality Commission (EQC). EQC conducted the public opinion poll via its Web site between June and December of 2002 to provide Kentuckians an opportunity to express their views and concerns to state officials on environmental issues.

The poll revealed that 96 percent of the 1,600 people responding were concerned about environmental issues in their communities and the state. Of this total, 77 percent said they were very concerned and 19 percent said they were somewhat concerned. Only 3 percent expressed little to no concern about environmental issues.

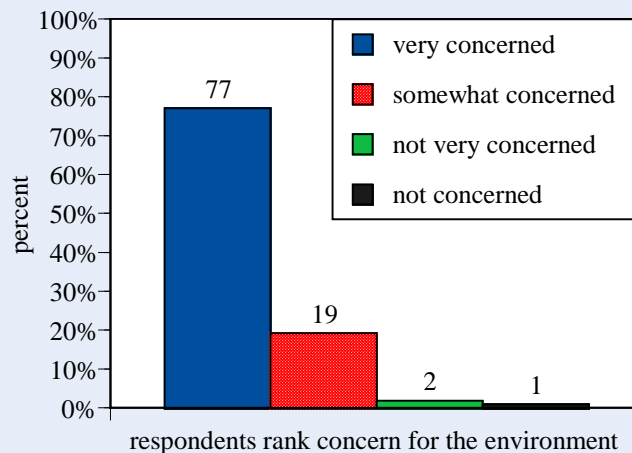
#### Many Believe Environmental Quality has Improved

Kentuckians are fairly optimistic about the environment. Six out of 10 Kentuckians (63 percent) taking the poll indicated that environmental quality in Kentucky has gotten better during the past 10 years, indicating that efforts to protect the environment are indeed making a difference. But 21 percent of the respondents believe environmental quality has actually declined and another 14 percent said that there has been no change in environmental quality during the past decade.

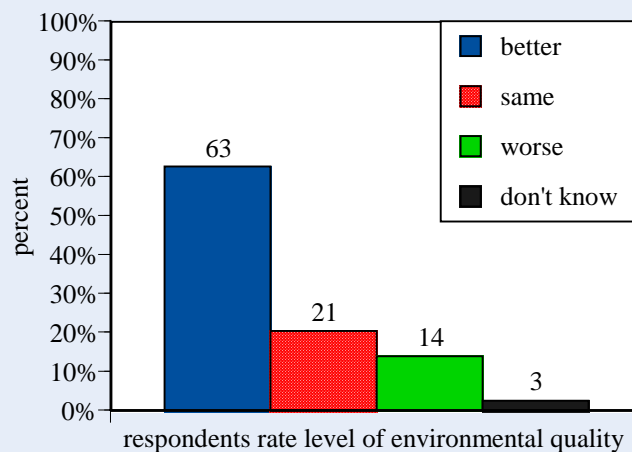
#### Kentuckians Divided on How Best to Protect the Environment

While Kentuckians overwhelmingly expressed strong concern about the environment, they are almost equally divided on how best to protect it. The EQC poll reveals that 38 percent of the respondents believe environmental laws are too strict, while 30 percent of the respondents said that environmental laws are not strict enough. Another 30 percent responded that environmental laws and regulations were appropriate.

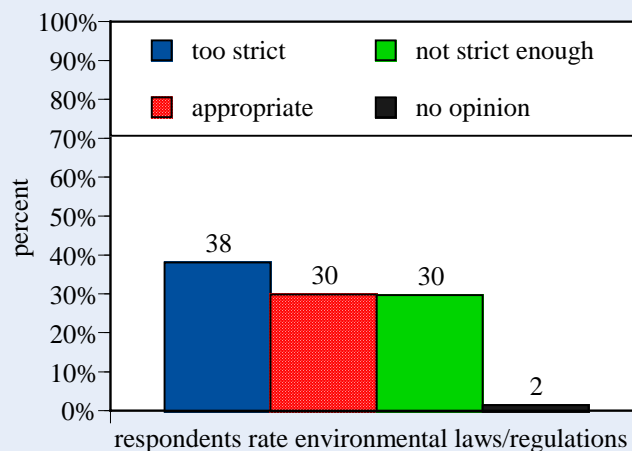
Rating Concern About Environment



Rating Environmental Quality



Rating Environmental Laws

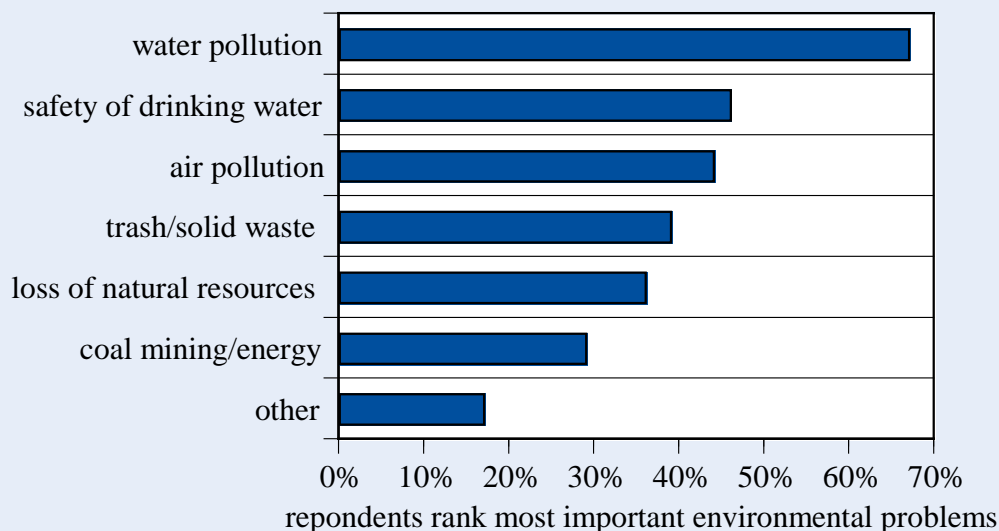


## Kentucky Environmental Quality Commission 2002 Online Public Opinion Poll on the Environment

### Water Pollution Tops List of Issues

When asked to rank environmental problems in the state, Kentuckians listed water pollution as the top environmental issue facing the state followed by the safety of drinking water. Other issues ranked in order of importance were air pollution, dumping of trash, loss of natural resources, energy and coal mining.

**Kentuckians Rank Environmental Concerns**

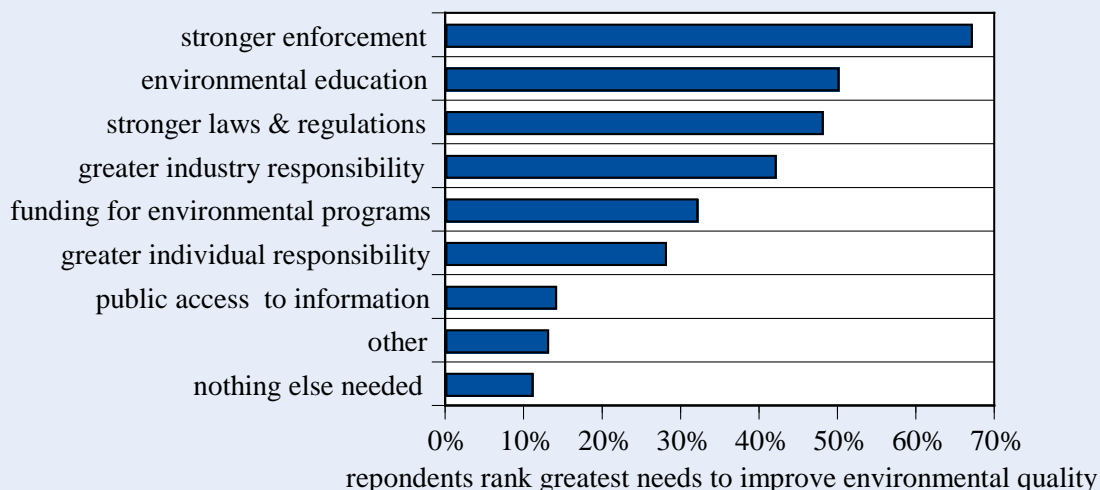


*Based on number of votes received for top 3 issues.*

### Enforcement and Education Ranked As Greatest Need

Kentuckians ranked stronger enforcement of environmental laws and regulations as the greatest need to improve environmental quality in the state. Other needs ranked in order of importance were environmental education, stronger laws and regulations, greater industry responsibility, additional funding for state environmental programs, greater individual responsibility and better public access to information.

**Kentuckians Rank Greatest Needs to Improve Environmental Quality**



*Based on number of votes received for top 3 needs.*

## Kentucky Environmental Quality Commission 2002 Online Public Opinion Poll on the Environment

### **Sprawl and Land Use Issues Dominate Concerns**

The survey also provided the public an opportunity to submit individual concerns to EQC. Some 240 individual comments were received. Not surprisingly, these comments reveal that environmental opinions are often shaped by where people live. For example, the EQC survey generated numerous comments in the area of sprawl. Some 56 percent of Kentucky's population now live in an urban setting. The impacts of congestion, development and loss of green space were among a number of land use issues expressed.

### **Kentuckians Want More Recycling Opportunities**

Another leading issue among respondents was waste. The state's recent campaign to eliminate open dumps has elevated awareness of this issue among the Kentuckians with many expressing their concern about the problem of roadside litter and illegal dumping as well as the need for more recycling.

### **More Inspectors and Public Involvement Needed**

A number of opinions were received regarding the state's environmental programs. The remarks included the need for more environmental inspectors to monitor and respond to problems. Kentuckians also want additional opportunities to be involved in solving environmental problems that affect them, according to comments received. Environmental education was seen as key to building an informed and involved citizenry.

### **Energy Alternatives and Conservation Called For**

Several opinions were received expressing the need for a balanced approach to energy that reduces our dependence on fossil fuels and foreign oil by focusing on conservation and increased use of renewable sources of power. Comments also reveal that there is heightened awareness of the global nature of environmental problems in Kentucky including the issue of global warming and overpopulation. And the ongoing war on terrorism was reflected in some of the comments including the need for officials to work together to minimize the threats posed by bioterrorism.

EQC will share the results of the survey with the Governor and other state officials as well as Kentucky's Congressional Delegation.

#### *What the public is saying about Kentucky's environment . . . quotes from the EQC poll*

"I think education is the key."

"I keep hearing everyone in Kentucky should have clean drinking water, why don't all of us have it?"

"Kentucky should make more efforts for sustainable energy, sustainable living."

"I am concerned about urban sprawl and the abandonment of downtowns in most of our communities."

"We need stricter septic tank and septic tank waste disposal legislation."

"The lack of statewide garbage pickup and recycling availability and participation are among my concerns."

"The forest is our future, encourage more responsible logging practices."

"As a volunteer, I preach about these issues at schools. As a mother, I teach my family to be responsible and to become an active part of the solution."



*Kentucky Environmental Quality Commission*

**2002 Online Public Opinion Poll  
on the Environment**

**Survey Questions and Results**



# Kentucky Environmental Quality Commission 2002 Online Public Opinion Poll on the Environment

## EQC Online Public Opinion Poll of the Environment Results

Conducted by:	The Kentucky Environmental Quality Commission
Time period:	June 14, 2002 through Dec. 30, 2002
Format:	Nonscientific online poll through the EQC Web site at <a href="http://www.kyeqc.net">www.kyeqc.net</a>
Response:	1,600 individual responses (poll designed to limit one vote per respondent)

Results of the following online survey are nonscientific and reflect the opinions of visitors to the Environmental Quality Commission (EQC) Web site. The commission invited the public to take this survey as an opportunity to express their views to state officials. The poll was advertised in the EQC Newsletter and the EQC, Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Cabinet and on the Kentucky State Government Homepage Web sites. EQC would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who participated in this poll. EQC would also like to acknowledge the assistance of Betty McDaniel, Senior Systems Consultant, Web Development Group with the Governor's Office of Technology for her assistance in formatting the survey.

### 1. How would you rate your concern about environmental issues in your community?

	Count	Percent
Very concerned	1237	77.26
Somewhat concerned	312	19.49
Not very concerned	34	2.12
Not at all concerned	18	1.12
total	1601	100

### 2. Do you think environmental quality has gotten better, worse or remains the same over the past 10 year?

	Count	Percent
Better	1005	62.77
Worse	329	20.55
Same	225	14.05
Don't know	42	2.62
Total	1601	100

### 3. What do you think of environmental laws and regulations?

	Count	Percent
Too strict	613	38.29
Appropriate	482	30.11
Not strict enough	479	29.92
No opinion	27	1.69
Total	1601	100



## Kentucky Environmental Quality Commission 2002 Online Public Opinion Poll on the Environment

### 4. What is the most important environmental problem facing the state?

	Most important						Least important	
Air pollution and odors	16%	13%	15%	14%	16%	12%	8%	5%
Water pollution	23%	27%	17%	13%	8%	6%	4%	2%
Dumping of trash	8%	12%	19%	14%	12%	15%	15%	5%
Safety of drinking water	13%	18%	19%	23%	11%	7%	7%	2%
Toxic waste	4%	5%	10%	16%	27%	19%	16%	4%
Loss of natural areas/resources	16%	9%	11%	12%	14%	24%	9%	4%
Coal mining impacts and energy issues	8%	14%	7%	5%	10%	14%	36%	6%
Other	13%	3%	1%	4%	2%	3%	6%	67%

### 5. What is the greatest need to improve environmental quality?

	Most important						Least important	
Environmental education for students and adults	25%	13%	12%	12%	13%	12%	8%	2%
Stronger enforcement of regulations	25%	26%	16%	10%	8%	7%	4%	2%
Stronger laws and regulations	13%	14%	21%	11%	10%	9%	11%	7%
Additional funding for state environmental programs	6%	9%	17%	25%	17%	11%	11%	2%
Greater industry responsibility for protecting the environment	12%	17%	13%	20%	21%	11%	4%	1%
Greater individual responsibility for protecting the environment	7%	9%	12%	12%	16%	27%	12%	4%
Greater public access to environmental information	1%	6%	7%	7%	11%	19%	42%	8%
Nothing else needed	6%	4%	1%	1%	1%	4%	2%	39%
Other	6%	4%	3%	3%	3%	1%	2%	30%

### 6. What topics should EQC meetings focus on this year?

	Most important						Least important	
Water pollution	39%	22%	13%	10%	5%	3%	3%	4%
Air pollution	7%	29%	21%	12%	10%	10%	9%	1%
Waste management	11%	12%	24%	16%	15%	10%	9%	2%
Energy	11%	7%	12%	23%	16%	13%	16%	2%
Forestry	2%	7%	9%	16%	29%	22%	12%	3%
Natural Areas	9%	8%	12%	10%	11%	29%	18%	3%
Environmental health	11%	13%	9%	13%	11%	10%	29%	5%
Other	13%	3%	1%	1%	3%	1%	3%	76%

# Kentucky Environmental Quality Commission 2002 Online Public Opinion Poll on the Environment

## EQC Online Public Opinion Poll of the Environment Additional Comments

The survey also provided an opportunity for respondents to submit individual concerns to EQC. EQC received 240 responses. These responses are shown mostly in unedited formats in which they were written by their original authors. EQC made some edits as appropriate. EQC compiled these comments into the categories listed below. EQC does not endorse any of these comments and is providing this information as a service to the public to express their concerns to state officials and others about Kentucky's environment.

### Air Quality

Air pollution is a major problem — particularly coal-fired power plants.

They claim they have a no smoking section at several restaurants. You still have a lot of smoke and odors from the smoking section drifting in the nonsmoking section. I think smoking should be banned from all public areas.

I do not like the time and money it takes us to VET test our vehicles in Jefferson County, but in the big scheme of things, this is at least some attempt to control the air quality for my grandchildren-to-be. When we throw programs like this out the window, do we concentrate more steadfastly on other environmental threats, or relax those standards, too?

Elimination of VET testing.

Burning regulations. There is too much burning of refuse in our area, and it consistently keeps my family sick with respiratory problems.

Allowing energy plants that produce questionable exhaust gases build in a highly residential area.

Air quality in buildings.

Absence of control on automobile and truck emissions.

Power plant emissions- they don't seem to be held to the same standard as other industry.

### Biodiversity

Loss of natural forest ecosystems.

Loss of farmland to overdevelopment.

Loss of biological diversity and habitat.

Loss of biodiversity.

Loss of biodiversity.

Due to loss/destruction/pollution of habitat, our wildlife population is decreasing in many areas. We must find a way to not only keep from destroying the land, but also to coexist with the existing wildlife.

Loss of biodiversity.

## Kentucky Environmental Quality Commission 2002 Online Public Opinion Poll on the Environment

Loss of deep forest ecosystems and native forest species.

There is a continual influx of non-native species of plants, insects, and fungi which endanger our native flora and fauna. The most troublesome of which are the diseases which are killing many of our native species of trees, including the American Chestnut (almost extinct), Flowering Dogwood, Canadian Hemlock, American Elm, etc. I would probably rate this as a high concern for me. I don't believe most people are aware of these types of issues, except for perhaps the insect damage to our native pines, which many people have noticed as a die-off. Neglect and abuse of our forests and wild areas—overdevelopment

Impact of overdevelopment on natural resources.

The continuing loss of biodiversity and woodlands throughout the state.

### **Biotechnology**

Genetic engineering. The Governor's apparent commitment to the genetic engineering industry is a full frontal assault on small farms, biodiversity, and the integrity of the food supply network.

Biotechnology, globalization.

### **Bioterrorism**

Impact on biological and terroristic threats on environment and the hazards associated with these.

Fish/wildlife, natural resource and public health along with bioterrorism and law enforcement need to work together and have better communication.

### **Coal Mining**

Mountaintop removal and coal sludge.

Martin County is dying... thanks to the laws not being enforced.

Irresponsible coal mining is the primary cause of all the problems listed.

Coal mining destroying our water/environment and the taxpayers footing the bill for contaminating our ground water.

Slurry impoundments

### **Development Projects**

Boondoggle transportation projects such as I-66 and Warren County Transpark.

ITA state-sponsored projects that are ill advised, i.e. the Ky. Trimodal Transpark.

Louisville Airport Relocation incomplete after promises of moving 10-15 years late.

# Kentucky Environmental Quality Commission

## 2002 Online Public Opinion Poll on the Environment

### Drinking Water

I keep hearing, everyone in Kentucky should have clean drinking water, why don't all of us have it?

Water ownership being sold to other countries. Such as the Lexington/Fayette Urban County versus. Kentucky American. This life resource is very important and ownership should remain with American citizens.

Clean fresh water availability for communities, i.e.; clean drinking water.

Drinking water quality, quantity, and source water protection.

Ensuring availability of water for multiple uses, especially drinking, 20-25 years from now.

### Education/ Knowledge/ Involvement

General public's knowledge of and will to solve our problems

As a volunteer, I "preach" about these issues to our young people at all age levels when invited to career days at schools. As a public health nurse, I am forced to focus on bioterrorism and weapons of mass destruction instead of everyday homeland air and water. As a mother, I teach my family to be responsible, and to yearn to become an active part of the solution.

Are we utilizing the State's Environmental programs to their fullest... seems we never hear anything about what the State of Kentucky is doing to clean up Kentucky.

Is information provided to people who don't have trash pick up at their residences (way out in the country) to let them know what resources they do have, so they don't dump just anywhere?

Education is important.

Overall I think education is the key.

You should get people thinking in terms of the long term economy in Ky. Environment equals economy. Waste to energy instead of fossil. Small farm, organic farming instead of corporate. Conservation, reclamation of forests to create jobs instead of cutting. To make individuals more aware that they can make a difference in the quality of our environment by recycling and conserving energy. Also they need to be aware of the fact that they can help the environment without making major sacrifices or discomfort

Public involvement.

Involving more people in or marketing recycling and waste education programs.

Invite the community newspapers and TV news more in the actions so all of us can read and hear what they are doing. Which is what?

Consumer responsibility.

Our biggest problem is the lack of a large, aggressive, well organized environmental constituency.

## Kentucky Environmental Quality Commission 2002 Online Public Opinion Poll on the Environment

Lack of environmental activism in the state. Essentially, the whole load is being carried by the very few!

The topic should be how to build a constituency that represents the percentage of people that are concerned about the environment - that constituency would have some clout!

State giving into the demands of Sierra Club, ELO, etc. I would be more than willing to help in any way to keep public land open for hikers, mountain bikers, and other off-roaders.

Re-establishing local active groups, perhaps this should be #1.

### **Energy**

More and wider roads and bridges while mass transit is completely inadequate.

Fossil fuel dependency.

Lack of a concerted effort at conservation by the state, particularly with energy usage.

Power plants.

Ky. should initiate waste to energy and alternative energy programs.

If renewable energy sources and 'clean energy' is perfected then a lot of water pollution, air quality, toxic waste, issues are alleviated.

If the question was worded differently the energy issues problem would have been first on my list.

The importance of conserving our natural resources and to start moving away from our dependence on oil (especially foreign oil) need to be stressed.

Depletion of fossil fuels.

Energy consumption - State government provides vehicles for some employees - no one is ever seen as a passenger in these vehicles - why not make these vehicles carpool operators????

I drive to Frankfort from Louisville each day and find the Commonwealth lacking in its efforts to encourage energy conservation - it does not provide up-to-date car pool information nor does it promote such to its employees.

Energy consumption.

Structural dependence on private transportation, suburban sprawl and global climate change, which are inseparable.

Gas wells.

Need for better public transportation such as light rail in Jefferson County to decrease dependence on oil.

Need to utilize renewal energy sources.

## Kentucky Environmental Quality Commission 2002 Online Public Opinion Poll on the Environment

Fossil fuels...replace the tobacco farmer with hemp and we've helped two issues at once! Anything made with petroleum can be made with hemp, thus cleaning up the environment substantially, and it keeps the farmer in business!!!!

Kentucky should make more efforts for sustainable energy, sustainable living.

The production of clean energy so as to eliminate the destruction of Eastern Kentucky.

Energy issues are paramount. But not for forums. Forums should address more urgent matters. The energy problem needs to be addressed through research and development grants — not appropriate to EQC?

### **Enforcement and Permitting**

Poor permitting of regulated industries.

Poor enforcement of existing laws.

No enforcement of Kentucky recycling laws.

Need more environmental inspectors.

Inaction of Kentucky government officials to act on toxic illegal dump sites. I reported a site to EPA and waste management for inspection. I was identified to the polluter, which caused considerable animosity and the site was not cleaned up.

Corporations aren't made to clean up the environmental messes they create, especially coal mining companies

Water pollution from junkyards and recycling centers such as oil and antifreeze poured on the ground and all the garbage at junkyards causing rats. Vehicle tires by the thousands are stored at junkyards with no enforcement.

Try a meeting in which you explain why existing laws protecting our environment are not enforced.

People need to be punished for dumping no matter how great or small, and so do companies.

The Mayfield Creek smells like one great big chicken. Why is that? Are they putting chickens in there? Or just dumping leftovers from the plant? The creek never smelled that away before.

Insuring that environmental laws and regulations are being enforced.

How we can force our regulatory agencies to implement the current laws, such as EPA, MSHA, etc.

Citizens need to be able to report agencies who are not on their side and who are not responding.

Apathy of state agencies and local governments.

### **Environmental Laws and Regulations**

The lack of environmental legislation to make people responsible for their own actions.

## Kentucky Environmental Quality Commission 2002 Online Public Opinion Poll on the Environment

I feel the state is too strict on our power plants. I operate one and it is really tough to stay in compliance (sometimes). We can't help boiler upsets and things that are mainly out of our control. We act as fast as we can to correct the problem but it is not an instantaneous thing that we can do. It takes a little time. But we are fined from the start.

### Factory Farms

The disposal of waste and dangerous or annoying odors from poultry plants and poultry factory farms.

Factory farms or confined feeding operations have a tremendous potential for damaging water quality, air quality, and general quality of life when located near dwellings.

Factory farms.

Factory farming of animals is a grave concern which I think can be remedied by making Kentucky the last place those types of business would ever want to locate.

Chicken houses polluting land and drinking water in Ohio County and the state. Yet, the need for jobs and acting on the environmental concerns when we allow companies to enter our county and state.

CAFO!!!!

Agribusiness and giant livestock farms - pigs and chickens - destroying water and air quality.

CAFOs we need much stronger state regulations. Better setbacks, and integrator liability.

Health of livestock and animals on Ky. farms.

### Flooding

The effect of flooding in eastern Kentucky.

### Forestry

The proven cycle of loss of trees to ozone depletion makes it hard for me to understand the widespread dozing of mature trees, the scraping of major fields with trees by any idiot with access to a bulldozer and the clear cutting policies encouraged by Forestry Services.

There should be a strong campaign to encourage people to plant trees in abundance.

In Germany, land and resource management is so strict that if you cut a tree down on your property without permission, you pay a hefty fine. They have more finite resources and better comprehend the adverse effects of acid rain and air pollution.

Logging.

Preservation of forests is NOT being done!

Planting back trees in areas that have been logged.



## Kentucky Environmental Quality Commission 2002 Online Public Opinion Poll on the Environment

The preservation of private forests is critical at this point.

The indiscriminate cutting of timber and destruction of the mountain terrain in doing so is part of the strip-mining/timbering destruction of the mountains.

Logging in eastern Kentucky needs be more strictly monitored. The mountains are becoming riddled with cuts from logging roads. In addition no big trees are being left and sometimes an area is clear cut. The forest is our future - encourage more responsible logging practices.

### **Global Warming**

I would like to express my worries about the ozone layer and global warming.

Global warming.

CO2, greenhouse gases are a concern for me. We should act like other states and comply with the Kyoto regulations—despite the fact that our Federal government refuses to do so.

Global and regional climate change.

Global warming.

### **Habitat and Wildlife**

Animal habitat protection.

Wildlife management.

The loss of native species through introduced insects and diseases.

Health and safety of wildlife.

Perhaps at some point in time we might take a look at how the wildlife in our state is being affected by our environment. Although, I suspect if we clean it up for humans, it will be just fine for our wild life friends.

### **Infrastructure**

Aging infrastructure in cities — especially sewers.

Public sewage systems.

### **Land Use**

State funding of private development projects that have tremendous adverse impacts to communities, farmland, and the environment (i.e., Transpark).

Sprawl and its total affect on land, air and water.

## Kentucky Environmental Quality Commission 2002 Online Public Opinion Poll on the Environment

Way too much cropland being sold for subdivisions.

Sprawl.

Rampant unregulated development, conversion from native habitats to managed habitats (e.g.: native grassland conversion to fescue), spread of invasive species, exclusion of fire in fire-dependent communities.

Planning and zoning. With a public lusting for more -- depletion of resources due to false advertizing.

Impacts of urbanization.

Lack of green space in cities.

Loss of trees in suburbs.

Sprawl issues are also important; we should be looking at mass transportation, not building more unneeded interstate roads, for one example. Keeping significant areas safe for wildlife, parks, etc.

Increased clearing of land to build shopping/business projects.

More stores instead of allowing the natural environment is a choice toward greed, not preservation and long range environmental health.

Failure of utilities and road crews to restore personal property after destroying it with their projects.

Urban sprawl and the impact on the quality of life in Kentucky. Communities have addressed commercial concerns at the expense of maintaining or improving things like green spaces, parks, bicycle paths (the new park in my community has parking for approximately 400 cars and 1 bicycle rack that holds 5 bicycles, sidewalks, traffic control in residential areas (speed and noise).

Urban sprawl and the abandonment of the downtown in most communities.

Developers that are allowed to strip the land, but not put "green" back.

Uncontrolled land development—builders are putting homes and buildings on every strip of available land, and this will have detrimental effects on the environment.

Urbanization and loss of biodiversity.

Urban sprawl and the lack of planning and zoning laws in the Commonwealth.

Urban Sprawl / Land Use Planning & Zoning.

Urban sprawl.

Unplanned growth and its affects.

No zoning in this county. There are no regulations regarding wastewater, our lakes -- and rivers are becoming sewer pits real fast.

# Kentucky Environmental Quality Commission

## 2002 Online Public Opinion Poll on the Environment

Address visual pollution (i.e. cell phone towers). Suggestion - locate cell telephone towers in the median of interstates. This would cause less visual pollution in other areas and the state/counties could lease the land thereby generating revenue.

### **Light pollution**

Observatories needed where people can see the stars without light interference.

### **Natural Areas/Tourism/Preservation**

Our state parks have gotten filthy.

Natural areas are not being managed at all. There is no management and it really shows our park system is a real mess and getting worse. We need a lot better park management with dedicated personnel tourism.

Preservation of natural areas to include farm land and lands adjacent to waterways.

### **Nerve Gas**

I am extremely concerned about the possibility of a serious incident if the plans to incinerate weapons at the depot is allowed. While working at Lexmark a few years ago, during a Hazmat class, the instructor told us that the REAL reason that I-75 was being widened was to facilitate the movement of toxic waste, other weapons, to be transported to the Depot for disposal. At the time, even though the interstate was only being widened up to the Clays Ferry Bridge, the instructor told us that the plans were to continue to the state border in both directions. He also told us that no matter what was being said, that they had no intention of spending all that money to just destroy what was on location. That they had every intention of bringing in toxic waste from other locations to be incinerated. And that it didn't matter what the people wanted or thought. Even though we are the ones at risk. If history has proven one thing over and over, it is the government's ability to lie

I've included my concerns about nerve gas agents stored in Richmond under the heading "toxic waste."

### **Noise**

Noise. Although some noise restrictions are in place, enforcement is almost nonexistent i.e. loud vehicles and vehicles with loud sound systems.

### **Off Road Vehicles**

Damage to public lands by off road vehicles.

### **Pest Control**

The mosquito problem is getting worse every year. They used to spray with aircraft once or twice a year. We're getting eaten alive here in Western Ky.

Please do not obsess on the West Nile virus. Unless it is to commission a study on what the long term extensive use of the insecticide is going to have on the environment. Along with the near term impact of the decimation of the bird population.

# Kentucky Environmental Quality Commission

## 2002 Online Public Opinion Poll on the Environment

### **Politics**

Those who would pay elected officials to pollute and to do it legally.

The degradation of environmental laws by the Bush administration, and his strong link to corporations that pollute.

Politics.

The federal government does not seem to care about our planet at all, with their attitude towards drilling in the Wildlife Refuge in Alaska, and in the Gulf coast, etc. We are killing this planet.

Taking more issues to the public for a public vote on serious issues.

### **Population**

Too many tourists on Kentucky lakes.

Overpopulation.

The stress and behavioral changes brought about by overpopulation, which is beginning to hit even states like Kentucky.

Overpopulation of planet by humans.

Overpopulation.

The detrimental effects to the planet of an increasing human population.

### **Public Health**

Environmental effects on physical health.

### **Radioactive/Nuclear Waste**

I am deeply concerned about the proposed transportation routes for radioactive waste through Kentucky. It is reasonable to assume that such massive transportation of deadly substances would be dangerous under the best of circumstances. Given that terrorism is now a fact of life in America, this endeavor seems suicidal. We must begin as a state and a country to explore safer sources of renewable energy for our economic and environmental benefit. We can no longer afford to allow business interests to dictate our decision-making in this area. We must explore ways to maintain economic health while protecting our environment.

Another major concern to Kentucky is the cleanup/maintenance of the former nuclear plant in Paducah.

# Kentucky Environmental Quality Commission

## 2002 Online Public Opinion Poll on the Environment

### **Septic – Onsite Sewage**

We need stricter septic tank and septic tank waste disposal legislation. Everyone should have a functioning septic system to preserve drinking water and underground private water supplies. Training of those in the industry should be mandatory and should be increased far above the current level in Kentucky.

The lack of septic and waste water rules.

Straight pipe sewage disposal.

Septic systems.

Private sewage (septic tanks).

Lack of sewer systems for private households. This is a service which I feel the state should work toward making available for all households.

### **Sustainable Development**

Sustainable land management and development.

Structural dependence on private transportation, suburban sprawl and global climate change, which are inseparable.

### **Toxics**

Safety of vegetables and fruit grown with the use of pesticides, and medications provided to the animals in the meats we eat.

Effect of water pollution on the fish we eat.

Safety of foods — lack of protection against pesticides used in farming (Kentucky farms and those external to KY).

Need for support of organic farming.

Pesticides/ herbicides including mosquito spraying across the state which are slowly poisoning our children.

Pesticides/herbicides.

Availability and support of organic farming.

Concern about fertilizer and other chemical runoff from agricultural land.

Incidents of birth defects caused by toxins in the environment.

Lead-based paint hazards and impacts to children

### **Waste**

Roadside Litter.

## Kentucky Environmental Quality Commission 2002 Online Public Opinion Poll on the Environment

Regulation of landfills. Poor recycling infrastructure.

Pollution on the sides of the road and intersections, including cigarette butts.

Old appliances and yards full of junked cars that are allowed to sit along the roadsides

We also need a bottle deposit law.

Lack of statewide garbage pick up, lack of recycling availability or participation.

Lack of available recycling facilities.

Incentives need to be made to encourage more people to recycle and to be more energy conscience.

Growing landfills.

Former toxic dump sites.

Construction waste. I live in a neighborhood in Elizabethtown that has various construction materials strewn about and when the rains come hard enough, the materials wash in to the neighborhood's pond and stream.

Waste problems are also significant.

Kentucky could easily implement a Zero Waste initiative and by doing so, clean up the rivers, prevent new landfills AND create thousands of jobs all over the state.

Safe disposal of toxic waste (nuclear and chemical) and elimination of its creation.

Recycling.

Illegal dumping.

Cutting down on all wastes.

Recycling.

Recycling.

L W D.

Getting 'curb side' recycling at every home and apartment.

Being a resident of Franklin County, my main concern is the lack of recycling efforts and the impact it has on all other related environmental problems. While other areas of the state, i.e. Lexington/Fayette, continue to expand their recycling programs, Frankfort/Franklin continue to regress in theirs. The only items residents can curb for pick up are cans and newspapers - no plastics and no glass of any kind! Lexington residents can now recycle grass clippings in addition to all other items. Versailles offers recycling pick up once a week (Frankfort offers every other week pick up). It is no surprise that BFI has bought more land for landfill use; it has to go somewhere. The Capitol City should be Kentucky's leader in advocating environmental conservation, not abdicating responsibility for environmental protection.

# Kentucky Environmental Quality Commission

## 2002 Online Public Opinion Poll on the Environment

### Water Quality

In my life time we have gone from being able to drink any water from about any creek or river to not being able to walk in or swim in about all the waterways of Kentucky -- somewhere somebody failed badly.

Rivers and natural waterway protection.

Pollution of rivers and creeks.

Groundwater pollution/contamination.

Agricultural water quality impacts.

A tremendous portion of the total running water originates in eastern Kentucky. Cleaning up this water will have a great effect on other downstream waters in other regions of the state. Please continue to monitor these waters, continue with funding to enhance our sewage facilities, and work on methods to reduce siltation from mining related activities.

Since Ky. has more running water than any other state in the continental U.S. Most states east of the Mississippi River have bad water problems themselves and we can gain a strong tourism advantage with clean water. Kentucky's rivers are highly polluted. Without water life will be in serious danger.

Groundwater contamination.

Drainage management.

With more miles of freshwater than any state in the continental US, we should protect and enhance our waterways.

Fast runoff and the eventual drying up (becoming more arid), of the entire Kentucky River watershed which will affect a sobering up of complacent Lexingtonians regarding their future water supply. People in the Bluegrass are playing Russian roulette with this matter. All this, of course, is caused by strip mining and mountain top removal and indirectly, by deep mining.

Concerned about depletion of clean water.

### Wetlands

Developers fill in wetlands and get by with it.

### Other

A more multimedia approach to solving environmental problems is needed.

Take a stand and back up the farmers and outdoor recreationists, not only in Kentucky, but the rest of the United States.

You have covered all I am worried about.

Jet stream.

Respecting the property of individuals and communities; restoring destroyed areas to same or better.



## Kentucky Environmental Quality Commission 2002 Online Public Opinion Poll on the Environment

A history of environmental outrages in Kentucky and how to avoid them in the future.

Environmental terrorists pushing their agendas on politicians.

NIMBY (NOT IN MY BACKYARD) attitude.

Clean money for the environment and bringing jobs to Ohio County and Kentucky.

Whales.

Reefs.

### **General Comments about Survey and Ranking of Issues**

I believe all of the problems listed in the survey are very important.

It was extremely hard to rate the issues since I believe we are in serious trouble when it comes to each one.

All of the issues are interconnected and I would rate them all as “1” if the survey would let me.

These issues are the most important issues our society currently faces. For example: certain types of coal mining produces toxic waste that pollutes the water that threatens our drinking water. The mining results in the loss of land that does not returned to its former condition. The burning of the coal pollutes the air which results in global warming and acid rain. All of the above issues tie in together in some form or another. They can't be taken separately.

The fact that all of the above are basically the same thing if you lose one you lose them all. We need to develop ways to regain the natural resources we have already damaged and save the ones we have left. This can be done and still progress with industry and other things vital to our states survival.

All of these issues are connected...there is nothing more or less important.

These issues are difficult to separate, they are all linked to one another.

The first six issues are highly interrelated and difficult to appropriately rank.

This nonscientific survey was conducted and compiled by the:

Kentucky Environmental Quality Commission

14 Reilly Rd.

Frankfort, KY 40601

(502) 564-2150

This report can be viewed and downloaded from the EQC Web site at [www.kyeqc.net](http://www.kyeqc.net).